

The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau data programs

Program/Website	Type	Frequency and Sample Size	Geographic Scope	Information Available	Producer	Counts	Purpose/Advantages	Limitations	Exclusions or Inclusions
American Community Survey (ACS) http://www.census.gov/acs	Household Survey (largest in the U.S.)	Annually U.S.:3 million addresses	Annual Estimates of the nation, regions, states, congressional districts, and geographies of 65,000 or more. Three year estimates available for places of 20,000 or more (starting in 2008). Five year estimates of areas as small as census tracts(starting in 2010)	Detailed tables showing a range of socioeconomic characteristics: age, race, income, commute time to work, home value, marriage status, veteran status, etc.	U.S. Census Bureau	People	Data users can access this detailed demographic and housing data annually instead of waiting every 10 years for decennial census data, to help them make more accurate, timely and informed decisions.	ACS data uses multiyear estimates and there is relatively large confidence intervals associated with ACS data for smaller geographic areas and subgroups of the population	In 2006, the ACS sample was expanded to include the population living in group quarters. Group quarters include nursing homes, correctional facilities, military barracks, and college housing among others.
Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) www.census.gov/sipp	Household Survey	Longitudinal data: Once a panel- Topical module data in wave 2: Duration of each panel: 2.5-4 years	2004 Panel began in February 2004 and consists of 46,500 U.S. households to be interviewed 8 times	Provides data about the income and program participation of individuals and households and the principal determinants of these characteristics; Looks at changes in income, spells without health insurance, movements into and out of poverty, changes in family structure, etc.	U.S. Census Bureau	People	SIPP is meant to primarily support longitudinal studies. It estimates future costs and coverage for government programs, such as food stamps; and it provides improved statistics on the distribution of income and measurement of economic well-being in the country.	Poor test/re-rest reliability?, sample attrition, released on a less timely basis than CPS	Includes all U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized household members 15 years old and over who are interviewed by self-response
Current Population Survey (CPS) www.census.gov/cps	Household Survey	Monthly US:78,000	National estimates and estimates of selected characteristics for regions and states	Detailed tables showing a range of socioeconomic characteristics such as employment, unemployment, earnings, hours of work, and other indicators. They are available by a variety of demographic characteristics including age, sex, race, marital status, and educational attainment. They are also available by occupation, industry, and class of worker.	Bureau of Labor Statistics	People	The CPS and LAUS program estimates provide a consistent historical time series for employment and unemployment data	Does not have data on small geographic areas nor can it produce tabulations of finely detailed categories like the ACS can	Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status of each member of the household 15 years of age and older. However, published data focus on those ages 16 and over.
Decennial Census http://2010.census.gov	Household Survey	Every ten years for all people living in the U.S.	Statewide, Counties, Townships, MSA's Cities, Census Tracts	Population data	U.S. Census Bureau	People	The most comprehensive (census of all living people in the United States) but least timely data set	Occurs once every ten years with a two to four year publication lag	Institutionalized are excluded from some measures
Local Employment Dynamics (LED) http://lehd.did.census.gov	Integrated: QCEW, UI, Censuses, Surveys, Admin. Records	Quarterly ND EQUI files	Statewide, Counties, MSA's, WIB's	Turnover rate, employment, monthly average wages, job creation, new hires, separations, etc.	U.S. Census Bureau	Paid Positions	Provides local data, provides statistics on employment, earnings, turnover, and job creation by industry, age and gender	9-12 month time lag	Excludes self-employed, railroad, work study, family farms, elected officials, religious organizations, military
Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) www.bls.gov/oes	Survey of businesses	Annually	Statewide, Regions, MSA's, Balance of State	Employment and wages by Occupation	Bureau of Labor Statistics + ND LMI	Paid Positions	Occupation employment and wage production; as well as staffing information	Not a time series, limitations on reporting in small regions	Excludes self-employed, some agriculture, domestic workers, military
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) www.bls.gov/qcew	UI liable employers	Quarterly	Statewide, Counties, Planning Regions	Employment and wages by industry	Bureau of Labor Statistics + ND LMI	Paid Positions	Complete universe of liable employers at fine level of geographic and industry detail, Generates statistics for the Business Employment Dynamics (BED)	Six month time lag and data confidentially in small areas	Excludes self-employed, railroad, work study, family farms, elected officials, religious organizations, military
Current Employment Statistics (CES) www.bls.gov/ces	Establishment Survey	Monthly (approximately 2,400 businesses in the state)	Statewide, MSA's	Nonfarm Employment by industry	Bureau of Labor Statistics + ND LMI	Paid Positions	Current industry employment data, time series analysis	Not available for small local levels, revised and benchmarked	Excludes self-employed, agriculture, domestic workers, military
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) www.bls.gov/lau	Integrated: CPS, CES, and UI claims data	Monthly	Statewide, Counties, Planning Regions, MSA's, Cities > 25,000	"Labor Force" "Number of Employed" "Number of Unemployed" "Unemployment Rate"	Bureau of Labor Statistics + ND LMI	People	Current labor force estimates	Frequent revisions as better data becomes available	Excludes individuals not in the labor force (Persons under 16, institutionalized, or not actively seeking work)